

The Old Stone Wall

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Preserving cultural landscapes

Elizabeth Muzzey, State Historic Preservation Officer



The Pinnacle in Hooksett is a rocky, forested hill of granite and schist. It flanks Hooksett village to the east, steeply rising more than 200 feet above the Merrimack River. To its west are Pinnacle Pond and Interstate 93. Walking trails, stone walls and picnic areas dot its landscape. In the 19th century, visitors to the Pinnacle could dance at a pavilion, visit a zoo, hike, picnic, study geology just a short distance from the railroad and the village.

In 1832, a writer in *A Gazetteer of the State of New Hampshire* described the view from an "eminence, called the Pinnacle" as "a delightful landscape; the water above and below the falls, the verdant banks, the cultivated fields, and the distant hills in the background." Henry David Thoreau was equally captivated when he visited in 1839, marveling at the close juxtaposition of the Merrimack River, "full of light and life, with its sparkling and foaming falls," with "the village of Hooksett ... so near that you can converse with its inhabitants or throw a stone into its yards."

We have no record as to whether Thoreau actually threw stones at Hooksett homes from the top of the Pinnacle, but it is clear that New Hampshire residents and visitors have long been drawn to the state's high points of land. For centuries,

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The DHR is a state service agency, supported by the State of New Hampshire, by the federal Historic Preservation Fund (through a matching grant administered by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior), and by donated funds and services. In addition to its state functions, the DHR is also responsible for administering the federal preservation program in New Hampshire.

prominent natural landmarks across the state have guided travelers, inspired artists, served as places for recreation and renewal, and drawn visitors and students of geology and geography.

Through time, with each visit, each painting, each story and each new use, New Hampshire's natural features have gained layers of cultural importance as well. Mountaintops such as Kearsarge, Chocorua, Washington and Monadnock are the domain of writers, artists, hikers and conservationists. A stop at the state's largest glacial erratic, the Madison Boulder, is a highlight for many shoppers visiting the Conway area. Engineers, skiers, hikers and campers have left their marks on Dixville, Pinkham and Franconia notches. The Piscataqua River and its tributaries have defined the seacoast of New Hampshire for centuries, beginning with the traders, loggers, sailors and merchants in the 1600s. In the time since, camps and summer homes have jostled with industries, dams and shipyards for space along the riverbanks. New Hampshire's natural landmarks are organic and evolving, often reflecting the combined work of nature and humans.

Caring for layered natural and cultural landscapes presents special challenges and opportunities. To preserve both a property's natural resources and cultural features, organizations with diverse missions, such as conservation groups and preservation organizations, need to work together. Heated discussions over the value of preservation versus conservation began more than a century ago in the United States. Naturalist John Muir and Gifford Pinchot, the first head of the National Forest Service, irreparably clashed over whether public lands should be returned to a natural state or conserved as sustainable working landscapes. An approach of managing diverse values won out in 1916 with the establishment of the National Park Service. Congress charged the new agency with conserving at national parks monuments and reservations "the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

In New Hampshire, the recent save of Webster Farm in Franklin provided a highly successful opportunity for community advocates and groups such as the Webster Farm Preservation Association, the Trust for Public Land, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the Division of Historical Resources to work together. In 2005 the Chocorua Lake Basin Historic District in Tamworth was listed to the National Register of Historical Places for its significance as an integrated landscape of natural resources and historical properties. At 6,135 acres in size, it is one of the largest historic districts in the country, combining woodlands, a state

forest, lakes and streams with historic stone walls, buildings, cottages and structures. Two smaller natural landmarks, Simonds Rock in Merrimack (credited with being the state's second largest glacial erratic) and the Pinnacle in Hooksett are now both listed on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.

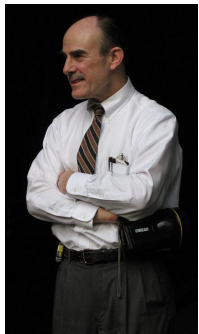
New Hampshire's natural landscapes and historical resources are special places, whether in a national forest or in our own backyards. Thanks to diverse and thoughtful caretakers, the symbiotic and long-standing relationship between nature and history is ingrained in our state's shared heritage. Continuing recognition of these special places and expanding partnerships among their stewards are vital for their preservation today and for those who will appreciate them centuries from now.

Note: Nominations to the National and New Hampshire State Registers of Historic Places on file at the DHR provided a good deal of information for this article, with special thanks to Kathie Northup of the Hooksett Heritage Commission.

James Garvin, New Hampshire State Architectural Historian, retires

Shelly Angers,

Public Information Officer, NH Department of Cultural Resources



On June 30, state architectural historian Dr. James L. Garvin retired from the Division of Historical Resources.

Jim-whose extensive academic background includes degrees from the University of New Hampshire, the Wentworth Institute of Technology, the University of Delaware's Winterthur Program and a doctorate from Boston University-began his professional career as Strawberry Banke Museum's first curator, restoring several houses during his time there. He later served as curator at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, co-authoring several exhibition catalogues and writing a number of books and articles on architecture and the decorative arts. In 1987, Garvin assumed the newly created post of state architectural historian at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources.

At the 2011 NH Preservation Alliance Awards, Jim was recognized for his extraordinary body of work and his impact on the preservation movement in New Hampshire. At the award presentation, Preservation Alliance board member Paula Cabot read citations from several colleagues, including scholar and author Bryant Tolles:

"He offers exemplary dedication to the historic preservation movement in New Hampshire: we are fortunate that the state

has benefited from his outstanding service over many years."

Cabot further noted:

"In the years since joining the NHDHR Jim has combined thoughtful, practical and pioneering research with outstanding communication and advocacy skills. His deep understanding of the state's history, his finely-tuned research skills and his passion for preserving the state's historical resources has assured the success of preservation projects across the state.

Many of you in the room have benefited from a site visit, a project review, a carefully-crafted packet of information, a report of a building's history, evolution and condition. Jim's many publications cover such diverse topics as social history, material culture, hand tools, town settlement, and taverns and turnpikes. His most recent book, *A Building History of Northern New England*, serves as the definitive textbook for the region's architectural history. Building on his trailblazing advocacy for the state's historic bridges and engineering history, he is now writing a book on stone, metal, and concrete highway bridges.

He has helped community volunteers, municipal officials, and trades-people understand and value the history and technology of buildings, learn how to care for them, communicate their significance, and protect and revive them.

They not only admire his scholarship, communication and advocacy skills but they admire his character. They hold him in high regard, consider him a friend and describe him as generous and inspiring."

We at the Department of Cultural Resources, as well as others whose lives Jim made better through his vast knowledge, limitless patience and sound good humor, wish him the very best in his retirement.

Salem Common, Pelham Library named to National Register

Shelly Angers, Public Information Officer, NH Department of Cultural Resources

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is proud to announce the Salem Common Historic District and the Pelham Library and Memorial Building have been honored by the United States Secretary of the Interior with placement on the National Register of Historic Places. These are the first listings to the National Register for both Salem and Pelham.

Administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the US Department of the Interior, the National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation and is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our historic and archaeological resources.

Functioning as a local center of civic, religious, educational and community life for more than two hundred years, the Salem Common Historic District is a well-preserved example of a traditional rural New Hampshire townscape. The District's meetinghouse was originally

constructed in 1738 and underwent major renovations in 1838 and 1899; it continued to serve as the site for annual town meetings until 1958. Throughout the years, a variety of other historic civic resources—including a town library, hose house, cemetery, common and memorials—were added to serve Salem’s ever-changing local government needs.

The Pelham Library and Memorial Building was constructed in 1896; it includes a memorial room to honor Pelham men who fought in the Civil War. Its notable Colonial Revival design is by architect Frederick W. Stickney of the firm Stickney & Austin in Lowell, Mass. Originally built as a library and meeting space for the town officers, it is now home to the Pelham Historical Society.

The Salem Common Historic District and the Pelham Library and Memorial Building join a growing list of significant New Hampshire buildings, districts, sites, structures and objects that are important in defining the state’s history and character, and that have been designated to the National Register for Historic Places.

For more information on the National Register program in New Hampshire, please visit www.nh.gov/nhdhr or contact Peter Michaud at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources at (603) 271-3483.

Three properties added to State Register

Shelly Angers, Public Information Officer, NH Department of Cultural Resources

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is pleased to announce the State Historical Resources Council has added three individual properties to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The most recent additions to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places are:

The Roy House, located at 9 and 11 Orchard Avenue in Nashua, is a 1915 stucco bungalow duplex likely built as a model house for the planned Orchard Heights subdivision. It is the sole remaining building from Mullikin & Way Company's grand development dream, as well as a rare example of stucco building in Nashua.

The Burley Homestead on North River Road in Epping is a 290-acre property with two houses and has been in continuous family ownership since before the American Revolution. The homestead house, with Georgian detailing, dates to circa 1752. The Benjamin Burley house was built at approximately the same time but was remodeled in the Italianate style in the 1870s. As a homestead farm, this property is an example of how multiple households of the same family historically shared resources.

"The Pinnacle" in Hooksett is dominated by a rocky hill overlooking the Merrimack River. Long a landmark for travelers and surveyors, the site has been a tourism destination since 1855. Starting in 1880, it was developed into a park attraction that included trails, a carriage road, a landscaped grove and an observation tower atop the hill. "The Pinnacle" is significant not only as a unique area created by nature but also because of its cultural significance as a recreational destination and landmark.

For more information about nominating a property to the New Hampshire Register of Historic Places, visit www.nh.gov/nhdhr

New Hampshire History Week

Elaine Loft, Program Assistant

This past legislative session, Representative David Watters (Dover) introduced House Bill 585, which proclaims the third week in October as New Hampshire History Week. The bill was co-sponsored by Reps. Norelli, Welch, K. Roberts and Senator Odell and Merrill. Governor Lynch signed the bill into law on July 12, 2011. History Week will be celebrated this year from October 16-22. Look for the announcement of a special press event on Tuesday, October 18, 4:00 at the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Watters noted: "I introduced the bill because of general concerns about supporting education about New Hampshire history and promoting preservation activities, especially at a time when social studies as a subject may be receiving less attention and when museums, historical societies, and other entities are facing the challenges of hard economic times and changing patterns of family and school activities. Given New Hampshire's long history and leadership in promoting history and preservation, stretching decades before the establishment of Old Home Week, it seemed appropriate in these times of change for the state to take a role through a Governor's proclamation."

Project Archaeology meets in Montana

Elaine Loft, Program Assistant



This summer, Tanya Krajcik, Archaeologist and Records Coordinator at the Division of Historical Resources, was selected to take part in Project Archaeology's Leadership Academy at Montana State University in Bozeman. Participants spent three days in June learning about cultural resources on public lands and the importance of protecting these lands for their scientific and heritage values. The Academy focused on a new curriculum called "Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter," which is an inquiry-based social studies and science program that incorporates history, science, mathematics and language arts. This new program has been endorsed by the National Council for Social Studies. At the end of the Leadership Academy, Krajcik was designated a Master Professional Development Instructor.

Project Archaeology is a national archaeology and heritage education program for everyone interested in learning or teaching about our nation's rich cultural legacy and protecting it for future generations. Project Archaeology includes publications, professional development for educators, networking opportunities, and continuing support for participants. Using an innovative hands-on approach to history, Project Archaeology teaches scientific inquiry, citizenship, personal ethics and character, and cultural understanding.

Each spring Krajcik conducts a Project Archaeology Teacher Workshop for New Hampshire educators. She also maintains a blog with postings about archaeology and education. For more information, visit: http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/project_archaeology.html

Summer in Jefferson: SCRAP field school

Elaine Loft, Program Assistant



The 2011 State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP) summer field school took place from June 27-August 5 at a newly discovered Paleoindian site located in Jefferson, NH. Sixty participants, ranging in age from 16 to 65, worked under the supervision of State Archaeologist Dr. Richard A. Boisvert, assisted by Heather Rockwell and Abbie Young. This is the twenty-fourth year Boisvert has conducted this summer program in New Hampshire.

During the field school participants documented the Jefferson VI site with detailed excavations and placed it in context with other Paleoindian sites in the immediate vicinity and broader region. The volunteer crew dug 125 shovel pits and 28 square meters of block excavations in three locations. Significant finds included fragments of fluted points and a significant number of pieces of exotic, raw materials (e.g. stone from other locations in New England). Boisvert said of the 2011 summer field school: "We had an exceptionally good crew and a lot of good weather (for digging): we received a very positive reception from members of the community."

For more information about the SCRAP program, visit the web site at: <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm>

New Hampshire's Archaeology Month is migrating to April

Shelly Angers, Public Information Officer, NH Department of Cultural Resources

In previous years, New Hampshire's Archaeology Month took place in the fall, but a spring celebration means we can create even more outstanding programming during the winter months as well as help everyone get excited for the following summer's field schools. April is also school vacation month, opening the door for new possibilities.

Planned April 2012 events already include: the NH Archeology Society Annual meeting, the Conference on New England Archaeology, NH Division of Historical Resources SCRAP Field Schools and a Project Archaeology Teacher Workshop.

To help support April as Archaeology Month, the NH Archeological Society will again create a poster and-NEW!-maintain an online calendar of all NH events. For more information, contact the NH Archeology Society at nhasweb@gmail.com

All Books Great and Small Recommendations from the DHR Staff

Elaine Loft, Program Assistant



A Building History of Northern New England: James Garvin; Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2001.

Before he retired, we asked State Architectural Historian James Garvin to name a book we could recommend to the many folks who call the Division of Historical Resources asking for advice about how to preserve their favorite building. Jim said, "As immodest as it sounds, the book I most often recommend to people seeking information about old buildings in New England is *A Building History of Northern New England*. This book is useful to people who are trying to understand old buildings because it utilizes structures from our region, especially from New Hampshire, to illustrate the evolution of building style and technology from the early

1700s to the early 1900s. It was written on the basis of several decades of field experience and is addressed to the commonplace needs and questions of owners or stewards of old buildings, especially old houses."

This book is available at the Museum Shop at the New Hampshire Historical Society:
<http://www.nhhistory.org/store/>.

Learn more about preservation programs

To learn more about historic preservation programs and activities on the horizon, visit the [News and Events Page](#) of the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, the [NH Preservation Alliance Events web site](#), the [Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire E-ssociate](#), and the "history" section of nh365.org. Also visit PreservationDirectory.com, a national portal with links to a wide and expanding range of preservation events, sources and resources.

[Staff members](#) of the NH Division of Historical Resources *have prepared this newsletter.*

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